

11/17/04



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 11/17/04

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on November 17, 2004. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice-Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt (SB Channelkeeper). Sara Polgar, EDC intern, was also present. CINMS Staff: Chris Mobley, Sarah MacWilliams. One public member was present.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. In addition, the following materials were handed out at the beginning of the meeting: an updated CWG contact list; the Sanctuary Manager's report; and a flyer announcing SAC openings.

II. WATER QUALITY

Linda introduced Sara Polgar, a Bren student who is working as an intern at the EDC and drafting a Water Quality Needs Assessment for the Sanctuary. Sara provided a general overview of the report, which will identify and describe sources of water quality threats to the Sanctuary and present the current status of water quality-related research & monitoring, regulations, and public outreach & education efforts. Based upon this analysis, the report will identify gaps and opportunities to further address water quality issues facing the Sanctuary.

Sara handed out three initial draft sections: Introduction; Structure and Methods; and Sources of Water Quality Impairments (Threats). She reviewed each section in detail and the group provided comments and input. The threats focus primarily on anthropogenic sources of water pollution and include: nonpoint source pollution from the Islands; small vessel traffic; large vessel traffic (shipping and cruise ships); ocean dumpsites; wrecks; oil production; point source pollution; nonpoint source pollution from the mainland; harmful algal blooms; and future potential threats such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and aquaculture facilities.

After a lengthy and constructive discussion, Sara outlined the next steps in the project. First, she will revise the report to respond to the input received at the meeting. In addition, she will complete the draft research & monitoring section for discussion at our January meeting. Shiva Polefka, another EDC intern, will continue to work on the regulatory programs section. In January, Sara will try to meet with Donna Meyers, the new Water Quality Coordinator for the West Coast Sanctuaries. Donna has already received an earlier draft of the report.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Chris provided an update regarding the status of the review of marine reserves expansion into the federal portion of the Sanctuary. The CINMS has received comments on the preliminary assessment, and staff is reviewing them. Based upon such input, the CINMS is developing a “preferred alternative” to submit to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) in March 2005. The PFMC will be asked to draft regulations in support of the preferred alternative and to act on such regulations at the June 2005 PFMC meeting. The CINMS will then complete the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

IV. □ MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sarah provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The CINMS staff are waiting for a meeting with the National Ocean Service (NOS); however, all internal review so far has been very promising. The staff will also continue to work on a communications plan for presenting the draft Management Plan Update and EIS to the public.

Sarah also reported that the Biogeography Study is almost completed. The researchers are waiting for some final data from NOAA Fisheries.

V. □□ OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES

We talked about the SAC-sponsored forum about LNG, scheduled for December 9 in Ventura. We passed around flyers announcing the event.